



# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT



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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1942

\$1.50 A YEAR

## SUGAR RATIONING REGISTRATION TO START ON MONDAY

**Institutional and Industrial Users of Sugar Registered This Week; the Information Required; Places of Registration Given**

Applications for sugar rationing books today were cautioned by Mr. Gordon H. Winkler, chairman of the Watauga rationing board, to come prepared with full information when they register at elementary schools in their vicinity May 4, 5, 6 and 7.

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## FIRE THREATENS BLOWING ROCK

**Number of Homes Saved by Volunteer Workers; Cone Workers Give Aid**

Blowing Rock, April 28.—A forest fire which has been burning for the past week along the Caldwell-Watauga line, became a distinct threat to Blowing Rock Saturday and Sunday. This fire has been raging in the Sampson, Bailey Camp and Blackberry sections and a number of homes have been saved only by the heroic efforts of volunteer firefighters. It is reported that one saw mill and several hundred thousand feet of lumber was burned in one community. Saturday the fire began to threaten the approaches to Blowing Rock by way of Thunder Hill and Green Hill, and a general call was made for men to fight it. All the men employed on

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## Report of Watauga County Health Department For First Quarter of 1942

By DR. ROBERT R. KING, (District Health Officer)  
During the first three months of 1942, we have had three cases of diphtheria reported, nine measles and 16 scarlet fever. This does not represent, by any means, all the cases of measles for there has been quite an epidemic of German measles which are miss-called French and little measles by a great many of our citizens. The disease is reportable and quarantinable for one week's time, and we would like to emphasize the need for reporting these cases by physicians, and where no physical is called, by the family concerned or by the school teachers. Fifty-one visits have been made to these cases, together with eleven consultations with physicians. During this same period, we have had 254 immunizations against smallpox, and 16 against typhoid fever. This is the preferable time of year for all of these immunizations, and we sincerely urge all of our citizens to take advantage of this service in order to protect themselves and their families against these three, easily prevented diseases.

Veneral disease control is one of the services of the health department, and during this quarter, we

## Back On Job



After two months' illness, Secretary of State Cordell Hull has returned to his desk. Photo shows him walking up steps at the White House for a call on President Roosevelt. Hull spent two months in the south on orders of his physician.

## CLEAN-UP WEEK WILL BE BEGUN HERE ON MAY 11

**Mayor Gragg Insists That All Residents Join in Effort to Clean Up the Town Before Tourists Arrive; Trucks to Gather Trash**

Mayor W. H. Gragg has designated the week beginning May 11 as the annual clean-up period for the city, and urges all the residents of the town to really join in making this city clean and attractive during this period, so that it will present a pleasing appearance to tourists this summer as well as to the hundreds of teachers who attend summer school at Appalachian College.

Mr. Gragg states that front yards, side yards, back yards, vacant lots, as well as the backs of business houses should have the immediate attention of their owners. Some of the merchants, he says, have received criticism from their patrons because of the unsightly condition of their back yards, while garages in some instances have allowed old cars, bodies and junk urgently needed in the war effort, to litter up their premises. All citizens of the town, white and colored, are asked to join wholeheartedly in this clean-up effort.

Arrangements are being made whereby a committee from the women's clubs will make an inspection of the town and report to the officials those not co-operating.

City trucks will start Wednesday and throughout the rest of the week will gather up the rubbish. Tin cans and other small rubbish should be placed in containers so that it may readily be hauled away.

## DOLPHUS THOMAS CASE MUST BE TRIED IN FALL

**Mistrial Results When Jury in Murder Case Fails to Agree; Opinion Divided Between Second Degree and Manslaughter, Rumor Says**

The jury which heard the evidence in the case against Dolphus Thomas, charged with the murder of a cousin Bon Thomas, was dismissed by Judge Felix Alley in superior court Friday night, when the jurors found it impossible to agree on a verdict. Accordingly, a mistrial was decreed by the court and the defendant will be again tried at the fall term of Watauga superior court. Meantime he is out on bond, which was in force prior to the trial.

Unofficial information is to the effect that nine of the jurors favored returning a verdict of manslaughter, while three voted for second degree murder. The jury was composed of Custer Wallace, Charles Simmons, W. B. Day, J. R. Holman, J. W. Farthing, C. F. Thompson, J. W. Winkler, H. A. Hagaman, Clyde Downs, Spencer Miller, J. D. Hodges and R. W. Smith.

The trial of the case, which began Wednesday afternoon, attracted wide attention and the court room was filled with spectators during the progress of the trial.

Chief interest centered in the testimony of the defendant, whose good character was proven by prominent citizens from three counties. He testified that he and Bon Thomas engaged in a fight following an argument about the behavior of their respective children, that he left the mill operated by Delmar Mock, brother-in-law to Bon Thomas, returned home, where he discovered he had lost his bill folder containing \$50. Returning to the mill in quest of the lost money, Thomas said, he was confronted by Bon Thomas, who threw a rock through the windshield of his car. He stated he shot in self defense. The broken windshield was introduced into evidence as was the stone. After firing the first shot, he testified Bon Thomas

## CONVICT ENDS LIFE WITH RAZOR

**Elijah Owens, Jackson County Man, Commits Suicide at Local Prison Camp**

Elijah Owens, 46 years old, one of the prisoners at the state road camp near Boone, ended his life last Thursday night by slashing his throat with a razor. Attendants stated that Owens had gone into a bathroom, shaved himself, and then wielded the blade with the fatal result. It was said that he was almost decapitated, and died before medical aid could reach him.

Deceased was a resident of Jackson county and was sent to the roads last October for the second degree slaying of his brother.

The body was prepared for burial at the Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home and relatives claimed the body Friday, taking it to the late home for interment.

## MORE SHRUBBERY TO BE AVAILABLE

**Mayor States That Citizens May Get More Evergreens at City Hall Today**

Mayor W. H. Gragg states that the response of the citizens last week to his efforts in providing nursery grown shrubs and evergreens was so gratifying that another load of the nursery stock has been bought and will be available at the city hall from Thursday morning throughout the remainder of the week, or as long as the supply lasts, at a small portion of the usual cost for such plants.

The evergreens available will include much larger arbutovite plants, plenty of balsam, Scotch broom, etc. Those interested in securing these plants are asked to go to the city hall immediately, as they should be planted as quickly as possible to get the best results.

## Honor Roll

Additional names for the roster of Watauga men serving in the armed forces are:  
Wm. G. Farthing  
Thomas Dixon Farthing  
Lee Ward  
Burl Greene.

## Rains Bring Respite to Weary Fire Fighters in East Watauga

**Home After Torpedoing Prinz Eugen**



It is a happy homecoming for the sleek British submarine Trident as she pulls aside her parent ship after the patrol in which she covered herself with glory. It was the Trident which torpedoed the German cruiser Prinz Eugen off the coast of Norway. She survived an intensive Nazi hunt and emerged unscathed.

Fire in Elk and Blue Ridge Townships Curbed When Welcome Rain Came

## 300 Men Engaged With Forest Fire

**Untold Damage Results in Watauga, Caldwell and Wilkes From Series of Fires; State Guard Units Aid in Work; Fires Believed of Incendiary Origin; One Arrest Made; Damage in Beech Creek Section**

The most disastrous forest fire to visit this area perhaps in 25 years, and which made its heaviest intrusions in the Dugger Mountain and Buffalo sections of Watauga and Caldwell counties, was brought almost under control late Tuesday, before a fairly heavy rain brought respite to the approximately 300 men yet on duty in the fire-ravaged area.

Lieutenant John F. Gaylord of Charlotte, who accompanied two state guard troops to the scene of the conflagration, came to Boone late Monday evening, where a meeting was held with county officials and other local leaders and made arrangements for vastly increased manpower to check the ravages of the flames. Barnard Dougherty, business manager of Appalachian College, dispatched 100 volunteer fire-fighters to the fire district early Tuesday morning. These men were carried by college bus and through the courtesy of Bryan Tucker, local taxi operator. When the fire was checked late in the afternoon it was estimated that 300 men from Watauga and Caldwell counties were engaged in combating its fury. E. P. Simmons, district ranger of Lenoir, Lieutenant Gaylor and others were in charge of the work.

District Game Protector H. Grady Farthing and Walter Edmisten, county game warden, carried dinners to the men from Boone, and on their return they also received supper through the courtesy of the board of commissioners.

One hundred more men from Boone were ready to fight the flames Tuesday evening when the fire was brought under control, and when the

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## More Than 1,200 Are Registered Monday

Information from the local selective service board indicates that 1,211 men registered Monday for military service in the 45-65 age group, not including one small rural community from which returns have not been received.

Complete information on the registration will not be available until our next edition.

## War Bond Campaign To Be Launched In Watauga Monday, Says Farthing

## C. OF C. TALKS OF FIRE CONTROL

Commerce Group Asks Those Interested to Appeal for Fire Warden Service

The problem of forest fire control was the principal topic to come up for discussion at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Monday evening, and a committee was appointed for the purpose of conferring with the county commissioners relative to securing fire warden service in this county.

Understanding is that the federal government, the state and the county each contribute one-third to this service, lookout towers are maintained, wardens employed and every effort made to check fires before they gain headway. The committee will meet with the county commissioners next Monday at 11 o'clock. All persons in the county who are interested in forest fire control are asked to express their views to the commissioners at this time.

There was considerable discussion of the bus transportation system, and the possibility of securing changed schedules to better provide for the needs of the people of the county as well as tourists. Committees were appointed to take up these matters with the bus companies and make reports to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. C. S. Prevette, president of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Grover C. Robbins of Blowing Rock, and Wm. J. Tobin, manager of the Green Park hotel, attended the meeting.

## Cashier of Local Bank Chairman of Organization to Make Effort in Behalf of Sale of Bonds and Stamps; Everyone to Be Solicited

Plans are rapidly shaping up for the formal launching of the war bond campaign in Watauga county next Monday, May 4, when workers under the direction of County Chairman W. D. Farthing will begin a systematic canvass to the end that every income earning citizen may be given an opportunity to pledge voluntarily some portion of his or her income to the regular purchase of defense bonds and stamps.

Governor Broughton, who is honorary chairman of the campaign, in a proclamation issued recently, designated May 4-9 as War Bond Week and called upon "the full and prompt co-operation of all citizens in signing a voluntary pledge for the purchase of United States savings securities."

Every pledge is conditional upon the signer's remaining financially able to make the stated purchase. This condition is expressly stipulated in the pledge. It will be left to the signers to decide whether or not they are able to continue their purchases.

Purpose of the campaign is to enable the government to take a nationwide inventory, so that tax plans may be laid accordingly to pay for the cost of the war. The

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## Dr. Dougherty Again Named Head Appalachian State Teachers College

Dr. B. B. Dougherty was re-elected president of Appalachian State Teachers College at the annual meeting of the board of trustees last week.

Two new members of the board of trustees were announced by President Dougherty. They are William J. Conrad of Winston-Salem, and W. M. Moore of Statesville. They will serve with V. D. Guire of Lenoir, who was elected chairman of the board; G. P. Hagaman of Boone, vice-chairman; Mrs. E. F. Reid of Lenoir, Wade E. Brown of Boone, T. C. Bowie of Jefferson, Eugene Transon of Sparta, and H. A. Cranor of Wilkesboro. The president appointed Mr. Hagaman, Mr. Transon and Mr. Cranor members of the executive committee, with full power to act when the regular board is not in session. Dr. Dougherty made a report to the board of trustees, the outstanding points of which are as follows:

A total of 875 students were registered for the year 1941-42. There were 234 freshmen, 198 sophomores, 218 juniors, 198 seniors and 27 special students.

science, and extension of the curriculum by the addition of several new courses, listed as follows: A course in commercial work, a course in training for the navy, and the university and Appalachian graduate school.

The rebuilding of the power plant which was destroyed by the flood of August 13, 1940, was one of the physical improvements approved, continued President Dougherty's report; also a new sewer plant, new well, new barns and the enlargement and improvement of the dairy, which includes a reservoir to furnish fire protection for the dairy. A new stack for the power plant was provided for.

## Cornett Child Is Drowned In Watauga River

Billy Lee Cornett, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cornett of Shulls Mills, was drowned in Watauga River a short distance from the home at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon.

Billy Lee and some other children were fishing, when he slipped from a rock on the river bank and fell into 12 feet of water.

The other children immediately spread the alarm and relatives and friends rushed to the scene. However, it was about an hour after the accident before the body of the child was recovered.